

QUANTITY SURVEYORS



JOB PROSPECTS

At a glance



Prospects are good for quantity surveyors, particularly in Auckland and Christchurch. Opportunities for quantity surveyors are good due to a strong residential building sector, a stable commercial (non-residential) building sector, and too few people training for the role to meet demand.

How to become a Quantity surveyor

Quantity surveyors manage construction project finances. They calculate a budget based on their client’s requirements, and prepare detailed estimates to ensure the budget is sufficient for each stage of construction as the project develops.

Qualifications needed

To become a quantity surveyor you need to have a National Diploma in Quantity Surveying or a Bachelor of Construction (Economics or Quantity Surveying).

Although both qualifications allow graduates to take on entry-level roles, those with a Bachelor’s degree find it easier to move into management roles later in their careers.

There are two Bachelor of Construction degrees accredited by the New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors. Both are based in Auckland, and require students to study full time for three years. The two-year National Diploma in Quantity Surveying is offered by many polytechnics and allow for promotion to a degree programme part-time from year 2. The Open Polytechnic also offers distance learning for the National Diploma.

Some students combine working in the construction industry with study.

Cost of study

NZ

\$20,000 over three years

Average costs in 2015 for a domestic student. Costs vary between institutions. Further costs include materials, textbooks, and accommodation.

Rents vary from place to place. Estimated market rents by region, city and suburb are available on the MBIE Building and Housing website.

The StudyLink website provides general budget advice for students, and the Sorted website provides help with detailed budget planning.

- MBIE Building and Housing: www.dbh.govt.nz/market-rent
- StudyLink: www.studylink.govt.nz
- Sorted: www.sorted.org.nz/calculators/money-planner

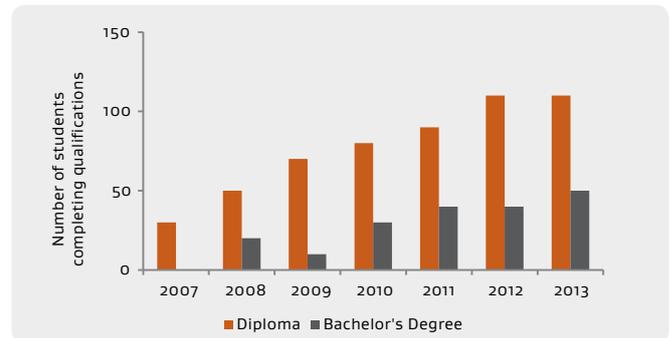
Registration

Quantity surveyors can be registered through the New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

→ NZIQS- information on becoming a member of NZIQS: www.nziqs.co.nz/

Completed qualifications

The number of students completing quantity surveying qualifications has increased. The number of Bachelor level completions rose from 10 to 50 between 2007 and 2013.

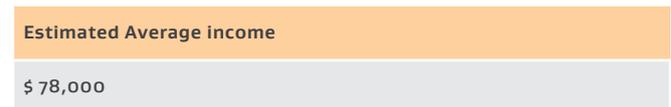


Source: Ministry of Education
Data is for the wider category Building Construction Economics (including Quantity Surveying).

Income and employment prospects

Income

In 2014, the average income for quantity surveyors was estimated to be \$78,000.



Average income from Statistics New Zealand Income Survey 2014. Estimated from hourly rates

Pay for quantity surveyors varies with experience and level of responsibility. New quantity surveyors earn \$35,000 to 70,000 a year. Fully qualified quantity surveyors usually earn about 75,000 to \$150,000 a year. Some quantity surveyors own a practice and their income depends on the profitability of the practice.

QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Employment and skill shortages

Quantity surveyor employment

Current		Projected growth*	
2013	2014	2013–18	2018–23
2,050	2,150 up 4.6%	3.8% per year	3.2% per year

*Projected growth is for the broader category of engineering professionals

There has been a significant rise in the number of quantity surveyors in recent years. Employment is forecast to grow 3.8% per year out to 2018, and then 3.2% per year to 2023.

Quantity surveyors appear on Immigration New Zealand's long-term skill shortage list, indicating the government is actively encouraging skilled workers in those occupations to work in New Zealand. A full list is available on the Immigration New Zealand website.

→ Immigration NZ, skill shortage list:
skillshortages.immigration.govt.nz

Where to find job vacancies

Vacancies for quantity surveyors increased a very strong 26% between June 2013 and June 2014. This compares with an overall increase of 1.5% in skilled vacancies. Quantity surveyor vacancies are advertised through public media such as the Trade Me Jobs and Seek websites.

→ Trade Me Jobs: www.trademe.co.nz/jobs

→ Seek: www.seek.co.nz

Career path

The main employers of quantity surveyors are property developers and construction companies. The building and construction industry is expected to continue to grow, particularly in Auckland and Christchurch.

Quantity surveyors may move into senior roles, strategic management, or start their own consultancy business. The building and construction industry is expected to continue to grow, particularly in Auckland and Christchurch.

They may also specialise as a

Consultant/Professional Quantity Surveyor

Consultant or professional quantity surveyors work for a client, and provide financial advice and estimation services for setting up building contracts, and consult with the contract quantity surveyor. They may also be involved in mediation and arbitration between parties about building contracts.

Contract Quantity Surveyor

Contract quantity surveyors work for a building company, and estimate a building's construction costs, manage the building contracts and monitor construction progress. They are often based on-site, and look after sub-contractors and work with the consultant or professional quantity surveyor throughout the project

Sub-contractor Quantity Surveyor

Sub-contractor quantity surveyors do the same work as contract quantity surveyors, but on a smaller scale. They only work with one trade (for example, timber, aluminium or window companies), rather than contract quantity surveyors who co-ordinate with all the trades

Other information

Links

More information on quantity surveyors is available on the Careers New Zealand website.

→ Careers New Zealand: www.careers.govt.nz